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REMARKS

In the Office Action of October 23, 2002, claim 2 was objected to for the use of the word "an". In the present amendment, Applicant has amended claim 2 so that the word "an" is replaced with the word "the". As such, Applicant requests the objection to claim 2 be removed.

Also in the Office Action, claims 18-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for insufficient antecedent basis. In the present amendment, Applicant has amended independent claim 18 in order to correct for the lack of antecedent basis. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 18-23 do not suffer from any § 112 deficiencies.

Further in the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 10, 13-15, and 18-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Parks et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,399,173).

Additionally, claims 1, 3-7, 10, 11, 13-15, and 17-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Oilschlager et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,267,983).

Also in the Office Action of October 23, 2002, claims 8, 9, 12, 16, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oilschlager.

Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent claim 1 defines over Parks. Respectfully, Parks does not disclose an adaptor body that has a first port with

at least one deformable arcuate sidewall. Support for this amendment can be found in at least lines 10-15 on page 10 of Applicant's application.

Parks discloses a ferrule 70 that is formed from a hard non-deformable material such as plastic, metal, glass, or polyvinylchloride (see Parks at column 4, lines 23-27).

As such, Parks specifically discloses a device that has interior walls 82, 84, and 86 that are non-deformable. Amended independent claim 1 calls for at least one deformable arcuate sidewall, and is therefore opposite from the non-deformable sidewalls disclosed in Parks. As such, amended independent claim 1 is not anticipated in view of Parks.

Also, Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent claim 1 defines over Oilschlager. Oilschlager does not disclose an adaptor body that has a first port with at least one deformable arcuate sidewall that defines a portion of a passageway through the first port. Support for this claim amendment can be found in at least Figs. 1, 4, and 7 of Applicant's application and related discussion.

Oilschlager discloses five cylindrical sections 12a, 12b, 12c, 12d, and 12e of different diameters (see Oilschlager at column 3, lines 15-18). Rounded transition sections 36b, 36c, 36d, and 36e are also present (see Oilschlager at column 3, lines 34-36). The rounded transition sections allow for the easier insertion of the adaptor 12 into an access port (see Oilschlager at column 3, lines 36-38). Oilschlager therefore discloses cylindrical sections and rounded transition sections that are located on the outside of the adaptor 12. As can be seen in Fig. 4 of Oilschlager, the central channel 38 is a passageway through the adaptor 12, and is cylindrical in shape. No portion of

the central channel 38 is defined by any of the cylindrical sections or rounded transition sections. As can be seen in Fig. 4, the cylindrical sections and rounded transition sections define the outer surface of the adaptor 12, and do not define any portion of the central channel 38 through the adaptor 12.

Amended independent claim 1 calls for a first port that has at least one deformable arcuate sidewall that defines a portion of a passageway through the first port. This structure is not disclosed in Oilschlager. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent claim 1 defines over Parks and Oilschlager and is in condition for allowance. Further, all claims that depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 1 (claims 2-17) are also in condition for allowance. Their rejections being made moot due to the allowance of independent claim 1.

As stated in the Office Action, independent claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of Parks and also in view of Oilschlager. Applicant has amended independent claim 18 in a similar fashion to amended independent claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 18 defines over Parks and Oilschlager for essentially the same reasons as discussed above with respect to independent claim 1. Therefore, Applicant submits that independent claim 18 is in condition for allowance and that all claims which depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 18 (claims 19-23) are also in condition for allowance. Their rejections being made moot due to the allowance of independent claim 18.

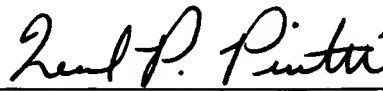
With the present amendment, Applicant submits that all pending claims are allowable and that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable action

thereon is respectfully requested. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at his convenience to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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**Amended Claims for U.S. Serial No. 09/660,665 (Attorney Docket No. BAL-8
(BA00169)**

1. (Amended) An enteral feeding adapter for use with a medical feeding device to deliver substances into a patient, the enteral feeding adapter suitable for use with a plurality of infusion sets having distal connectors of differing dimensions, the enteral feeding adapter comprising:

an adapter body containing at least a first port configured for receiving a distal connector of an infusion set, the first port having at least one deformable arcuate sidewall for frictionally engaging the distal connector to sealingly secure the distal connector to the adapter body, the at least one deformable arcuate sidewall defining a portion of a passageway through the first port; and

a tube extending between the first port and the medical feeding device for transmitting substances that pass through the first port to the medical device.

2. (Amended) The [An] enteral feeding adapter according to claim 1, further comprising a second port configured for injection of medication therethrough into the tube.

18. (Amended) An enteral feeding adapter configured for receiving [the] a distal end of an infusion set and for communicating with a medical feeding device to transmit substances into a patient, the enteral feeding adapter comprising:

an adapter body having a first port, the first port having at least a cylindrical first section and a second section defined by a first arcuate sidewall disposed distally of the first section, the first arcuate sidewall being deformable and configured to frictionally

engage the distal end of the infusion set, the first arcuate sidewall defining a portion of a passageway through the first port; and

a tube extending between the adapter body and the medical device for transmitting the substances from the infusion set to the medical feeding device and thereafter into the patient.

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